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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/084,332	02/28/2002	Kazutoyo Maehiro	P21976.DC1	5642
7055	7590	11/21/2005	EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			TSEGAYE, SABA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2662	

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/084,332

Applicant(s)

MAEHIRO, KAZUTOYO

Examiner

Saba Tsegaye

Art Unit

2662

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06/22/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/26/02 & 06/22/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Harvey et al. (US 6,784,901).

Regarding claims 1-3, 6-10 and 13, Harvey discloses, in Fig. 1, an Avatar manager 102 a host server (claimed server), a local chat (claimed teleconferencing) system 108, a user interface 110, and a chat local display 112 (claimed terminal). As shown in Fig. 11, chat entry area 1108 is comprised of chat mode button 1110 and chat text entry area 1112. Chat mode button 1110 allows the user to cycle through various modes of communication. **Speak** mode sends messages to all users in local chat area 1107. **Whisper** mode allows a user to send a private message to a single other user or Avatar in local chat area 1107 (column 5, line 42-column 8, line 52).

Regarding claims 4 and 11, Harvey discloses the message control method wherein the source terminal receives a private communication selection that selects whether the message is sent as the private communication, and creates the header based on the private communication selection and the recipient selection (column 25, lines 5-13).

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Regarding claims 5 and 12, Harvey discloses the message control method wherein the recipient terminal displays the message, and the information that the message is sent as the private communication on the same display area where a general message is displayed (column 16, lines 32-44).

3. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Locascio (US 6,519,628).

Locascio discloses a server computer that directs traffic to several client computers. A chat program (claimed teleconferencing system) allows multiple parties to converse with each other in a chat room simultaneously. A member of a chat room is able to send a private message to another member by appropriately encoding the message that is the sender designates a particular member of a chat room as a recipient for a message. The message is not replicated at other member computers than the one operated by the recipient (column 4, lines 27-46).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hankejh et al. (US6,915,336 B1) discloses a real time Internet communication system.

Turner et al. (US 20030018725 A1) discloses a method and system for using an instant messaging environment to establish a hosted application sharing session

Bauer, Jr. et al. (US 2002/0083134 A1) discloses a method and system of collaborative browsing.

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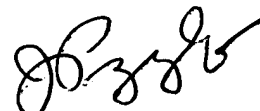
David et al. (US 6,069,943) discloses a router that is used an outbound audio signal of a user can easily be switched between a teleconference and a collaborating call.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saba Tsegaye whose telephone number is (571) 272-3091. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5:00), First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on (571) 272-3088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ST
November 15, 2005



JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER